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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Ukraine receives pledges of \$3.5 B in financial support

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — International financial organizations and donor nations pledged to provide Ukraine with \$3.5 billion in external financial support in 1997. Of the total pledged during a meeting here on December 17 hosted by the International Monetary Fund, the IMF will provide \$1.1 billion, the World Bank \$1 billion, and the rest will come from the European Commission, the United States and 13 other donor nations, among them Japan, the Netherlands, Canada, Italy and Germany.

U.S. Assistant Treasury Secretary for International Affairs David Lipton said that about \$2.5 billion of the total amount is intended to help meet Ukraine's balance of payments needs, and the rest is directed toward assisting its economic reform program. The totals include new and already committed financing, he said.

While the United States will be providing more than \$500 million in wide-ranging assistance to Ukraine in 1997, Mr. Lipton said, about \$95 million of that amount will be considered part of the announced IMF-sponsored package.

"Because the Ukrainian program is an ambitious one," Mr. Lipton said, "the international community has put together a very important package of support" for its effort. "Ukraine has spent roughly two years bringing a measure of stability to the economy, and this program goes beyond that, and begins to tackle some of the more difficult, more entrenched budgetary and regulatory issues," he said.

The program aims to bring down excessively high tax rates, strives for a realistic budget, and involves extensive deregulation and liberalization, Mr. Lipton said. The U.S. official pointed out that the announced 1997 aid is part of a three-year IMF "extended arrangement" that can raise the total amount of balance of payments support for Ukraine during that period to more than \$5 billion. [The international effort to help Ukraine close the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and solve its energy needs is part of a separate, G-7-sponsored program.]

With this newly announced assistance program in place, he said, "The attention will turn to Ukraine, [to see if] the Ukrainian people, the [Verkhovna] Rada and government are prepared to carry forward this program." He stressed that important elements of the assistance program — the IMF and World Bank elements — are conditional. "In other words, the funds being pledged will be available only if the reforms go for-

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D.C. conference examines Ukraine's role in the world

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — Zbigniew Brzezinski summed up Ukraine's first five years of independence succinctly about a half-hour into his dinner address at the National Press Club on December 12.

"Ukraine is here to stay," the former presidential national security advisor and now counselor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies told the participants of a conference devoted to analyzing how Ukraine developed its relations with the rest of the world since the break-up of the Soviet Union. The conference was sponsored by the Harvard University Ukrainian Research Institute.

Titled "Ukraine in the World," it was the first in a series of conferences planned by the Ukrainian Research Institute under the general theme, "Ukraine — Five Years of

Independence." It was held December 12-14 at the George Washington University in conjunction with the Ukrainian Program of the Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at GWU, and in cooperation with the Ukrainian Embassy, which hosted the last session of the conference.

In addition to Dr. Brzezinski, the conference also heard from Anton Buteiko, Ukraine's first vice foreign minister; Borys Tarasiuk, Ukraine's ambassador to the Benelux (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg) and former first vice foreign minister; James Collins, special adviser for the new independent states to the U.S. secretary of state; Richard Morningstar, U.S. ambassador-at-large for the NIS; Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, Ukraine's ambassador to the United States; and other U.S. government representatives, think-tank analysts and academic experts from the United States, Canada, Germany and Turkey.

Independent Ukraine not only defines itself as a state, but is a stabilizing factor in Europe and helps Russia define itself, Dr. Brzezinski said. How Russia accepts Ukraine as an independent nation will determine whether Russia will become a normal European state or try to re-establish its empire. So far, judging by Russia's approach to the issues of Crimea and Sevastopol, he added, the answer is ambiguous, and will remain so for some time.

"It is, after all, an enormous change for Russia to become accustomed to an independent Ukraine," he said. "For 300 years, Ukraine was viewed as part of Russia, and hence, we have to be patient. It's not an excuse for these attitudes — they have to be repudiated — but it is a statement of historical perspective. It will take time for them to be altered, and we should have no illusions."

Dr. Brzezinski added, however, that "Russia is not forever doomed to be an empire."

"My sense is that the Russian political

(Continued on page 4)

CHRIST IS BORN — GLORIFY HIM!



Icon by Andriy Maday as reproduced on Christmas card published by the UNA.

Duma members arrive in Kyiv for roundtable

by Marta Kolomayets

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV — A group of deputies from the Russian Duma arrived in Kyiv on December 17 for a two-day visit, in what has been interpreted as an attempt to assuage strained Ukrainian-Russian relations over the division of the Black Sea Fleet and the status of Sevastopol.

However, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz was quick to announce that the discussions were part of a roundtable dialogue, and not conducted on an official level.

"This is an unofficial meeting of representatives of groups and factions of both parliaments and the members of the inter-parliamentary committee on collaboration between Ukraine and Russia."

Representatives from all factions and groups in the Ukrainian Parliament met with a delegation of their colleagues from the Russian Duma, led by Svetlana Goryacheva, vice-chairperson of the lower chamber of the Russian Parliament.

During a press conference at the end of two days of meetings, Ms. Goryacheva said, "Russia has no claims on Ukrainian territory. This is, at least, the opinion of the State Duma. We can squabble, but in the end, we must guide our peoples to accord." Her remarks were reported by Hot Line, an independent weekly news service based in Kyiv.

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FOR THE RECORD: Shcherbak on the status of Sevastopol

Remarks by Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, ambassador of Ukraine, at the round-table discussion on "The National and Legal Status of the Ukrainian City of Sevastopol and Problems of the Black Sea Fleet Division" held at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington on December 10.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the official position of the Ukrainian government in connection with the serious aggravation of the situation around Sevastopol.

The question centers on the latest decisions of the highest Russian legislative bodies with regard to the status of Sevastopol and the fate of the Black Sea Fleet.

I would like to remind you that this case is not a new one. On July 9, 1993, the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federative Republic adopted a resolution "On the Status of the City of Sevastopol," which stated that Sevastopol had federal status within Russia.

That resolution, which aggressively violated universally recognized principles and norms of international law, in particular Paragraph 4 of Article 2 of the United Nations Charter, as well as resolutions of the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) and provisions of the Treaty between Ukraine and Russia of November 19, 1990, was condemned by the world community, including the U.S. (the statement by the U.S. government of 1993), and by the U.N. Security Council, which distributed a special statement on this matter on July 20, 1993.

I quote: "The Security Council reaffirms in this connection its commitment to the territorial integrity of Ukraine, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The Security Council recalls that in the Treaty between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, signed at Kyiv on November 19, 1990, the high contracting parties committed themselves to respect each other's territorial integrity within their currently existing frontiers. The decree of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation is incompatible with this commitment as well as with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and without effect."

It seemed that the most serious splash of "Sevastopol fever" has passed. Then a long and not so simple, yet peaceful process of negotiations went on.

The process of Ukrainian-Russian negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet problem began in 1992 with the Yalta Agreement.

A significant breakthrough was achieved in Sochi on July 9, 1995. Main principles for the Black Sea Fleet's division were determined, and in the end of that year and during the first half of 1996 actual division started.

To our regret, for many reasons, in the fall of 1996 the second stage of the so-called "Sevastopol campaign" began. The initiators of this campaign were influential political leaders and parties of Russia, such as Gen. Aleksandr Lebed — then chief of the Russian Security Council — and Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, as well as others. The Ukrainian leadership, in turn, demonstrated patience and deliberation, and tried to avoid confrontation even after the Russian Duma adopted the law "On Cessation of the Black Sea Fleet Division" in the first reading on October 16, 1996.

According to information of the Russian mass-media, the arguments of certain Russian politicians are as follows:

- Political abandonment of the campaign by Russia to claim Sevastopol as Russian territory would negatively impact on the internal position of the Russian government, would demonstrate its inability to

defend its national interests, and therefore to tackle the task of contemporary Russian nation-building.

- If Russia should renounce Sevastopol as a Russian city, a precedent of resolving territorial disputes in a manner inconsistent with legal procedures would be created. It would lead to the development of centrifugal tendencies in Russia which may cause dissolution of the nation.

- In its international aspect, securing the southern borders of Russia and the CIS, the level of Russia's influence on the Black Sea region, as well as on the international arena as a whole, depend in great measure on the settlement of the problems of Sevastopol and the Black Sea Fleet.

- Keeping Sevastopol within Russia would significantly improve its geopolitical situation and would provide for the stabilization of the internal situation in Russia.

- From the point of view of national and cultural traditions in Russia, Sevastopol is one of the strategic elements of Russian national consciousness. The loss of Sevastopol would not only damage patriotic feelings of the Russian people but would complicate the process of searching for a new national identity, which is very important now in connection with the rebirth of Russian statehood.

It is not difficult to see that these arguments are based not on principles of international law but represent purely political tools.

Until now we have proceeded from the assumption that the Duma, which is known for its opposition to the executive authorities, does not reflect the official position of Russia. We view as legitimate the positions only of President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov, who have clearly and repeatedly stated that the Ukrainian status of Sevastopol is indisputable and that the process of division should be accomplished in accordance with previous bilateral agreements.

However, on December 5, 1996, the Federation Council, the upper chamber of the Russian Parliament, approved decisions which we cannot view as other than territorial claims on Ukraine and a violation of all previous agreements on the Black Sea Fleet division.

The Federation Council adopted a legislative package, in particular "The Statement on the Status of Sevastopol," aimed at proclaiming Russian status of the Ukrainian city of Sevastopol.

In essence, the Russian Federation raises territorial claims on Ukraine and infringes upon its sovereignty.

The Federation Council also approved an appeal to the presidents of Russia and Ukraine to preserve the unity of the Black Sea Fleet. It is worth mentioning that the unanimity of the vote is very conspicuous: for — 348, against — 0, abstentions — 1.

The gravity of the situation and potential danger of these decisions lies in the fact that some representatives of the Russian executive branch are also members of the Federation Council — governors of Russian provinces who, by and large, were nominated by the Russian president and who can hardly be accused of acting in opposition to President Yeltsin.

In reply to these decisions by the Federation Council, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on December 6 of this year approved a resolution which states that it considers such actions by the Duma as "a gross violation of fundamental norms of international law, encroachment on the sovereignty of Ukraine".

"By its recent actions the Russian side has aggravated the situation to the utmost.

(Continued on page 11)

NEWSBRIEFS

New bishop to be installed in Kyiv

LVIV — Bishop Mykhail Koltun will be installed as exarch of the Kyiv-Vyshhorod Exarchate of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church on Sunday, December 22. He had been nominated for the post during the Synod of Bishops meeting held October 14-21, in Lviv; the nomination was approved by the Vatican on November 13. The installation will be conducted by Bishop Lubomyr Husar, auxiliary bishop to Major Archbishop Myroslav Ivan Lubachivsky. Bishop Husar had served as Kyiv-Vyshhorod exarch until his most recent appointment as auxiliary to the primate of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Invited to the installation ceremonies were: all bishops of the UGCC, Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco, as well as Roman Catholic bishops and the administration of President Leonid Kuchma. Bishops of Ukrainian Orthodox Churches in Ukraine were informed of the ceremonies. (Press Office, Archeparchy of Lviv)

Rukh holds first party conference

KYIV — The first party conference of Rukh, the Popular Movement of Ukraine met on December 14-15 in Kyiv and unveiled its pre-election program for 1997. The party also called for the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine. One part of the program calls for the integration of Ukraine into the European Union and NATO, while another section focuses on fighting poverty. Rukh called on other Ukrainian democratic and reformist parties to unite against the left. A total of 490 delegates from 26 local party organizations, more than 30 Ukrainian Parliament deputies, and guests from abroad attended the conference. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Russia releases Ukrainian crew

KYIV — The Ukrainian ship Almaz, which was detained by Russian border guards in Georgia on December 4, was released along with its crew on December 13, Ukrainian radio and international agencies reported. The captain of the vessel remains in custody under suspicion of smuggling. The Russian Security Service said the captain had been accused of smuggling foodstuffs and drinks in August and is expected to be charged with similar activities in the next few days. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov admitted that Russian border guards had violated certain rules by not informing the Georgian authorities of the detention, adding that he wants the case to be closed. In a briefing, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadii Udovenko

said the case is closed, but that talks would continue over the captain's detention. Statements by both Russian and Ukrainian officials indicate that they do not want the incident to lead to a deterioration in Russian-Ukrainian relations. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Parliament passes new privatization law

KYIV — The Verkhovna Rada passed a new version of an enterprise privatization law on December 11, reported UNIAN. According to the law, all Ukrainian citizens can purchase state property, but employees enjoy preferential treatment in acquiring shares in enterprises where they work. The law bans privatization of the property of the armed forces, underground mineral deposits, water resources, radio and TV transmitters and channels, pipelines, distilleries and weapons-producing enterprises. The law allows Ukrainian citizens, foreigners and persons without citizenship, along with Ukrainian and foreign corporate entities, to purchase shares in privatized companies. Property that belongs to the armed forces will be subject to corporatization, with the state retaining 51 percent of the shares. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Commission to investigate Libyan deal

KYIV — The Verkhovna Rada set up a special commission to look into The Washington Times report alleging that Ukraine was selling missiles and arms to Libya. The commission is to investigate the source of the allegations and dispel doubts over Ukraine's adherence to international embargoes. Volodymyr Horbulin, chairman of the Council of National Security and Defense, said a special investigation had proven the charges were groundless, and a document to that effect was signed by all relevant Ukrainian military chiefs. In a meeting with the U.S. State Department, Mr. Horbulin said no documentary evidence concerning the Libyan deal was produced. He said the White House would soon publish its own findings over the charges, and hoped it would not affect the U.S. Congress' dispersment of aid to Ukraine. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Ukrainian deputies fight over red flag

KYIV — People's Deputy Volodymyr Moiseyenko placed a small red flag at his table in Ukraine's Parliament to commemorate the former Soviet Constitution Day on December 5. A scuffle broke out between nationalist and communist legislators as nationalist legislators attempted to shred the small red flag and communist

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Ukraine marks fifth anniversary of independence referendum

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The weekend of November 29 Ukraine celebrated the fifth anniversary of the referendum of December 1, 1991, in which 92 percent of Ukrainians upheld the Verkhovna Rada's August 24 declaration of independence.

The overwhelming vote to go the route of independence and democracy was the final blow that toppled the crumbling Soviet Union. On December 25, 1991, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced that as of January 1, 1992, the Soviet Union would cease to exist.

The fifth anniversary celebrations contained little pomp and circumstance and were relatively low key. However, a ceremonial concert, which opened the just-renovated National Philharmonic Hall took place on November 29; Rukh, the Popular Movement of Ukraine, held a commemorative meeting on December 1; and President Leonid Kuchma issued a proclamation.

The most formal of the festivities was the Friday night symphony gala attended by President Kuchma, Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, Foreign Minister Hennadii Udoenko, former Chief of Staff Dmytro Tabachnyk and many members of the Cabinet of Ministers. Verkhovna Rada members Les Taniuk, Pavlo Movchan and Borys Oliynyk also were there. Noticeably absent were Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz and the Parliament leadership, but the leadership has been at odds with President Kuchma for months now, and this event was by invitation of the president.

Almost 3,000 people gathered to hear the 100-member Kyiv Symphony and conductor Mykola Diadura, who led the musicians through numbers by Ukrainian composers Mykola Lysenko, Hryhoriy Zhukovsky, Dmytro Bortniansky and Kyrylo Stetsenko, and European composers such as Chopin, Berlioz and Rossini.

The opening of the 133rd season of the symphony in the newly renovated building was made possible with the support of President Kuchma, who a month earlier had made a special visit to the symphony, located across the street from the Ukrainian Home, to motivate workers to stick to the schedule so that the celebratory opening would coincide with the anniversary of the referendum. He also made sure the workers received their salaries and that money was available to complete the construction.

The building was constructed in 1882 and had seen the likes of noted composers



Roman Woronowycz

The Kyiv Symphony performs on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence referendum.



Leiko

The newly renovated National Philharmonic Hall.

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Workers put the finishing touches on the hall's interior.



President Leonid Kuchma and members of his administration during the program.

D.C. conference...

(Continued from page 1)

elite realizes that Russia's future is not in self-isolation. But there are legacies to be overcome, emotions to be overwhelmed and suppressed," he said.

Dr. Brzezinski, who heads the American-Ukrainian Advisory Committee, quoted from a letter he recently received from Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, in which he responds to some of the committee's recommendations and describes the administration's reasoning behind the enhanced U.S.-Ukrainian relationship.

"The Clinton administration did not lightly agree to characterize its relationship with Ukraine as a strategic partnership," Mr. Talbott wrote. "The decision to do so was based on the recognition that Ukraine increasingly shares our values and goals, and that a strong, prosperous, democratic and independent Ukraine can make a critical contribution to the stability and well-being of Europe as a whole – a core U.S. national security interest.

"It is remarkable, I think, that in the relatively short time since Ukraine re-established its independence, the ties, cooperation and over-all warmth of our bilateral relations have developed to the point of a strategic partnership, where each country views the other as a sympathetic friend and ally, with whom we will work to build the democratic and integrated Europe of the 21st century," Mr. Talbott wrote.

To this Dr. Brzezinski added: "This has certainly been the goal of those of us who over the last three to four years have toiled for a genuine strategic relationship between the United States and Ukraine."

First Vice Foreign Minister Buteiko also spoke about the need to change the post-Soviet psychology of both the Russian and Ukrainian people. In a luncheon address on December 12, he pointed

out that the Ukrainian elite must become more "national-minded" and must learn how better to govern their country.

Nevertheless, he said, Ukraine has made great strides in the five years of independence – in beginning the conversion from military to civilian industrial production, bringing inflation under control, beginning tax reforms, preparing and submitting budgets, improving the investment climate, diversifying its foreign economic relations, integrating into the European and trans-Atlantic communities, and establishing a strategic partnership with the United States.

At this stage of its development Ukraine still needs foreign assistance, he said. But in the not too distant future, he added, "We will be on our feet, and we won't need help."

In his closing remarks at the conclusion of the conference on December 14 at the Ukrainian Embassy, Mr. Buteiko added that Ukraine is not interested in handouts, but rather in cooperation and in obtaining technical know-how. As he described it, Ukraine does not want fish but the knowledge of how to fish.

Ukraine's relationship with the United States is based on common principles of democracy, market economy, human rights and equality, he said. And even though it can never be the equal of the United States and Russia, he added, Ukraine nonetheless expects and now enjoys equal treatment and respect in its relations with the United States.

Ambassador Collins dealt with the U.S.-Ukrainian relationship in more detail during his luncheon address on December 13, mentioning also that the mutual interest in non-proliferation, especially with "rogue states," is an important element in that relationship.

Asked if the United States was satisfied that Ukraine is not providing weapons assistance to Libya, as was alleged recently in The Washington Times and denied by the government of



James Collins, special advisor for the NIS to the U.S. secretary of state, speaks as Ambassador Borys Tarasiuk (left) and Minister Anton Buteiko look on.

Ukraine, Mr. Collins replied that the United States and Ukraine have developed over time a system for dealing with these kinds of issues.

"We are discussing them with candor with senior officials of the Ukrainian government, and I'm satisfied that we are addressing these issues effectively," he said.

The development of the U.S.-Ukrainian relationship from the Ukrainian perspective was presented at the concluding session of the conference by Ambassador Shcherbak, who traced its history from what he called "the zero point" of President George Bush's infamous "Chicken Kiev" speech in August 1991, through the turning point during President Leonid Kuchma's Washington visit in November 1994 and to the present "strategic partnership."

The U.S. role in helping Ukraine address its economic development problems, and especially the work of the recently formed U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission, were addressed by Ambassador Morningstar. Ukraine has made significant progress, he said, but added that the next year or two will be critical for Ukraine.

Ukraine must progress from economic stability to growth, he said, or else outside support will dissipate. To succeed, Ukraine must convince its domestic and foreign investors that it is an attractive place to invest, Mr. Morningstar added.

The conference heard from two other U.S. government officials: Carlos Pascual of the National Security Council, who discussed the bilateral relationship during the concluding, fifth session; and Stephen Burant of the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, who analyzed Ukraine's relations with East-Central Europe at the outset of the conference.

Also discussing Ukraine's relations with its neighbors during the first session were Roman Solchanyk, an analyst with the Rand Corporation, Zenovia Sochor of Clark University and the Harvard Research Institute, who chaired the session; and Ambassador Tarasiuk, who was the discussant.

Ukraine's relations with the East were the subject of the second session, chaired

by Muriel Atkin of George Washington University, which featured: Duygu Sezer of Bilkent University in Ankara, who focused on Ukraine's relations with Turkey and the Black Sea region; and Oles Smolansky, of Lehigh University, who reported on Ukraine's relations with Israel and the Middle East. Ambassador Shcherbak, who was Ukraine's first ambassador to Israel, was a discussant, along with Mr. Buteiko.

The third session of the conference dealt with Ukraine's ties with Western Europe and the United States. It included presentations by Olga Alexandrova of the Bundesinstitut für Ostwissenschaftliche und Internationale Studien in Cologne; and Sherman Garnett of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Again, Mr. Buteiko was the discussant in this session, chaired by Angela Stent, of Georgetown University.

Military affairs and security issues were the subject of the fourth session, with John Jaworsky of the University of Waterloo in Canada, Mr. Garnett, Dr. Solchanyk and Lt. Col. Volodymyr Havrylov, Ukraine's new military attaché in Washington. James R. Millar, director of the Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at George Washington University, was the discussant, and Martha Bohachevsky Chomiak of the National Endowment for the Humanities chaired the session.

The conference, which attracted some 200 government, academic and other specialists – including a few ambassadors and other diplomatic representatives – was addressed also by the president of George Washington University, Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, and by Lubomyr Hajda, associate director of the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard and organizer of the event.

Dr. Hajda indicated that the "Ukraine – Five Years of Independence" project will include two more conferences: one dealing with economic issues, and the other focusing on nation-building and social issues. The information and analysis presented at these conferences, as well as additional articles, will be compiled into a two-volume publication.



Anton Buteiko, Ukraine's first vice minister for foreign affairs, addresses a session. Seated (from left) are: Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak, Ambassador Richard Morningstar and Carlos Pascual.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR
GREETINGS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

MARY & MARK DUSHNYCK

Wishing our family, friends and entire UNA family
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Martha, Darko, Dorian, Handzia Lysko

"Season's Greetings"

from the

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Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit/Windsor honor Congressman Bonior

WARREN, Mich. — Having received the Taras Shevchenko Freedom Award from the local Fifth Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence Committee in September, Congressman David E. Bonior in November was named Ukrainian of the Year for 1996 by the Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor. Both awards were presented to Rep. Bonior for his distinguished contributions in support of Ukrainian statehood.

The Ukrainian Graduates celebrated their 57th consecutive anniversary in November, and it has become tradition in Greater Detroit to present scholarship awards to qualified high school graduating seniors and to name the Ukrainian of the Year at the anniversary banquet.

Dr. Jaroslaw Sawka, vice-president, offered welcoming remarks to the audience, and then John Stoiko assumed the role of master of ceremonies. The invocation was led by the Very Rev. Varcilio Selkowski OSBM. Mr. Stoiko then proposed toasts to the people of the United States and their President Bill Clinton, to the people of Canada and their Queen, and to the independence of Ukraine.

A memorial by Myron Kasey honored the late Dr. Anthony Wachna.

The program began with a performance by a choir ensemble of the Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic High School under the direction of Christina Romana Lypeckyj with Maria Lonchyna Lisowsky providing piano accompaniment. This was followed by pianist Nannette Meyette and violinist Peter Lisowsky.

After dinner, Serafina Marzotto, chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, introduced the scholarship recipients and presented them with their awards. The

winner for the 1996 academic year are: Paul Roman Horbal, Yulian Kowalchuk, Marc Gregory Marzotto, Taras Sawka, Larysa Tarnawskyj, Natasha Tennile Topolnicki. All candidates were invited to speak briefly about themselves and their goals.

The Ukrainian of the Year Award was presented by Stephen M. Wichar, committee chairman. He began his introduction of Congressman Bonior by quickly identifying the Ukrainian maternal lineage (John and Maria Gavreluk of Lviv and Kyiv). Mr. Wichar underscored Rep. Bonior's accomplishments in the U.S. Congress in initiating and supporting legislation having a Ukrainian orientation.

Mr. Wichar cited a most recent endeavor: the Environmental Research Institute of Michigan, a partnership with the government of Ukraine to establish an Environmental Institute in Kyiv that would focus on Chernobyl problems. Thanks to Rep. Bonior and his colleagues \$5 million was allocated for this project. Another recent development was the Commercial Law Project. Again, Congressman Bonior and his colleagues secured \$100,000 to assist Ukraine in reforming its judicial system.

Rep. Mr. Bonior was also the original sponsor of House Resolution 167 to help Ukrainians to recover from the Chernobyl accident. Additionally, Mr. Bonior has always been supportive of youth programs. He has met and helped many students from Ukraine who seek enrichment programs. Mr. Bonior has accepted students as interns in his office and has worked with Wayne State University's Ukrainian Studies Program.

"His position on CBS's 'The Ugly Face of Freedom' broadcast and the Medvid incident should be viewed as



Rep. David Bonior (left) is presented the Ukrainian of the Year Award by Stephen M. Wichar Sr. of the Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor.

exceptional for a top-level legislator," concluded Mr. Wichar.

Rep. Bonior was presented with an achievement plaque in recognition of his service to the Ukrainian community with distinction. The legislator received the award humbly and with gracious appreciation. In his acceptance remarks, Mr. Bonior reiterated that he is indeed proud of his Ukrainian ancestry.

The main point of his acceptance remarks, however, was the importance of education for youth in a highly technological and competitive society. He turned to the evening's scholarship recipients and said, "education is the common denominator for parents all over the world. Immigrants from every walk of life feel that education for their children

is the key for a better life in a modern democracy." The audience was spontaneous in its standing ovation.

It should be noted that Rep. Bonior recently defeated his Republican opponent in the 10th Congressional District and was re-elected as the Minority Whip in the U.S. House of Representatives.

To close the banquet, a benediction was offered by Bishop Alexander Bykovetz of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church.

The Ukrainian Graduates' 57th anniversary commemoration was well-executed due to the efforts of co-chairpersons Katherine and Peter Bezwerchij, and Olga and Tom Meyer. Keyboard music during dinner was provided by the Rev. Valery Kowalchuk.

Duma members...

(Continued from page 1)

Indeed, on December 17, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Tarasov issued a statement that rejected the December 5 Federation Council resolution claiming Sevastopol.

"Sevastopol and all of Crimea belongs to Ukraine," he said, speaking on behalf of the Russian government.

According to Ms. Goryacheva, the goal of the parliamentary visit was to improve contacts between the two legislatures given the fact that Ukraine and Russia share mutual humanitarian and economic interests. She added that the two neighboring countries should cooperate closely in drafting legislation, especially laws concerning social protection.

Chairman Moroz also was pleased with the visit, telling Interfax-Ukraine that "this is precisely how we can achieve an understanding, resolve joint problems and prevent conflicts." He said that cooperation between the two parliaments is promising, especially in the fields of legislative support for economic cooperation, human rights and freedoms, the formation of democratic institutions and cooperation in science and technology.

"We see our future in the development of truly good-neighborly and mutually beneficial relations based on the respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of each others' borders," said Mr. Moroz.

Volodymyr Yatsenko, the national deputy who chairs the Chernobyl Committee in the Verkhovna Rada and a

member of the interparliamentary group for ties with the Russian Federation that set up the exchange, told journalists the two days of discussions mark the beginning of a "qualitatively new stage and a new approach to inter-parliamentary contacts."

Despite rumblings of a boycott on the eve of the Russian Duma delegation's visit to Kyiv, all of the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada's groups and factions sent their representatives to the roundtable talks. The Reforms faction said that although it favored friendly and businesslike contacts between the two neighboring parliaments, they would only meet with their colleagues if the Russian lawmakers did not lay claims to Ukrainian territory.

And, despite the Russian Foreign Ministry's rejection of the Federation Council's claims to Ukrainian territory, as well as Ms. Goryacheva's statement, Rukh activists picketed the building where the two delegations held their roundtable. Some deputies from the Rukh faction, including Oleksander Lavrynovych, Yaroslav Fedoryn, Vitalii Shevchenko, Ivan Zayets, Andrii Zarudnyi and Heorhii Manchulenko, joined their party's picket line.

The next round of Ukrainian-Russian inter-parliamentary consultations has been slated for December 24-25 in Moscow.

In related news, Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, whom the Reforms faction has proposed to banning from Ukraine, labeling him a persona non-grata for inciting enmity between the Ukrainian and Russian peoples, will not be traveling to Sevastopol in the near future.

He has postponed his planned December 17 trip to Sevastopol to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new 300-unit apartment block for Black Sea Fleet sailors, financed by the city government of Moscow.

Ukraine receives...

(Continued from page 1)

ward," he said and pointed out that the international community views the assistance package as a whole.

That point was stressed also by the IMF in its announcement, which noted that the components of the program are interdependent and that the program will not succeed if implemented piecemeal. "[The donors], therefore, urged Ukraine to carry out the adjustment program in its entirety as soon as possible to avoid delays in the financing pledged at the meeting," the IMF said.

The pledging conference was attended by a delegation from Ukraine headed by Vice Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk, Economics Minister Vasyl Hureyev and President Kuchma's economics adviser, Valerii Vytvytsky.

Asked whether the Ukrainian government and the Verkhovna Rada could

meet the requirements of this international program, Mr. Pynzenyk told The Ukrainian Weekly that "above all, these reforms are necessary, not for international organizations, but for Ukraine."

"We feel that without the acceptance of this reform package, it will be impossible to bring about economic growth," he said. He explained that the government's reform package includes measures aimed at improving Ukraine's investment climate, tax system reforms, balancing the budget, and structural reforms and privatization, especially land ownership.

The reform package, he said, was presented to the Verkhovna Rada that same day, December 17. Its acceptance, he added, will determine the timetable for the disbursement of international assistance. While in Washington, Mr. Pynzenyk and his delegation also had meetings regarding economic assistance with officials of the State Department and National Security Council.

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

A busy and joyous season

The Christmas season has arrived. For all of us it is a busy time of year, but for us Ukrainians, it seems busier still, for, not only do we have all the usual Christmas customs that "regular" Americans observe, we have our own Ukrainian traditions.

Although the winter cycle of Ukrainian folk rites actually begins about a month before Christmas with the Feast of the Presentation of the Mother of God (November 21 by the new calendar, or December 4 by the old calendar), it appears that we begin the "Christmas season" in earnest when we celebrate the feast day of St. Nicholas by the Gregorian calendar on December 6. That means that already on December 5 the presents have to be delivered by St. Nicholas and placed under the children's pillows overnight. (St. Nicholas' helpers, therefore, are busy way before Santa's.) Then comes St. Nicholas' Feast Day by the Julian calendar on December 19.

Soon thereafter comes Christmas by the new calendar, preceded by the traditional 12-course meatless "Sviata Vecheria" (holy supper) on Christmas Eve — the preparation of which keeps Ukrainian homemakers busy for weeks beforehand. It is a time of singing our beautiful "koliady" (Christmas carols) and of going "koliaduvaty" from house to house — a custom that we continue to this day, even though our homes are scattered far and wide throughout various cities and suburbs.

This is followed by New Year's celebrations by the Gregorian calendar, then it's back to Christmas by the old calendar on January 7, and then comes New Year's Eve ("malanka") and New Year's Day by the Julian calendar. "Shchedrivky" (New Year's songs) are sung — among them the hauntingly beautiful "Shchedryk" known the world over and in this country as "The Carols of the Bells." And, don't forget that on New Year's Day — whichever one you choose to celebrate (in most households these days it seems the choice is to celebrate both) — good luck has to be brought to the household by young men offering best wishes and "sowing" grain.

The Christmas cycle ends with the feast of Epiphany ("Yordan," or "Vodokhrushchi"), which is marked on January 7 by the new calendar, or January 20 by the old. On Epiphany Eve there is another meatless holy supper and the solemn blessing of water, which recalls Jesus Christ's Baptism by St. John.

By the time our "Christmas season" ends — a month a half has passed almost in the wink of an eye. Whew! It is indeed a busy time for us Ukrainians.

But, we wouldn't have it any other way. Because that is what makes our Ukrainian Christmas so special.

So, dear readers, we wish you and your families a joyous Christmas season and God's blessings in the New Year.



Dec.
28
1866

Turning the pages back...

Danylo Zabolotny, founder of the world's first research department of epidemiology, was born on December 28, 1866, in Chobotarka, a village about 85 miles southeast of Vinnytsia.

Zabolotny studied physics and mathematics at Odesa University (graduating in 1891), then medicine at Kyiv University (1894).

In 1893, while still a medical student, he worked with Pasteur Institute microbiologist Ivan Savchenko, and together they discovered the bacilli-carrying cholera and vibrio cholera. Together, they carried out the first enterovaccination experiment. That is, after swallowing a vaccine, Savchenko ingested a live culture of cholera.

In 1898, he founded the first bacteriology department in the Russian empire at the St. Petersburg Women's Medical Institute and in 1911, he proved that the bacteria causing plague are transmitted to humans by wild rodents. Zabolotny served as this department's director until 1928.

In 1920, Zabolotny returned to Odesa University and founded the first epidemiology department in the world. He served as rector of the Odesa Medical Institute in 1921-1924, taught at the Leningrad Military Medical Academy in 1924-1928, and founded and directed the Institute of Microbiology and Virology at the All-Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in Kyiv (1928). He was also a co-founder of the International Society of Microbiologists.

In 1927, he published one of the first texts in his field, "Fundamentals of Epidemiology."

Zabolotny conducted groundbreaking research on a number of infectious diseases, including cholera, diphtheria, dysentery, plague, syphilis and typhus, as well as on gangrene. In his studies of the plague, he conducted expeditions to China, India and Mongolia.

Zabolotny died in Kyiv on December 15, 1929, and was buried in his birthplace, which was renamed Zabolotne in his honor.

Source: "Zabolotny, Danylo," "Savchenko, Ivan," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vols. 4, 5 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993).

CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTERS

Approaching the Third Millennium

To our Reverend Clergy, Religious and God-loving Faithful:

Peace in the Lord and Our Apostolic Blessing.

The Lord God created man and woman "in his image and likeness" (Gen. 1:26) so that eventually, after a period of obedience, they would be taken by Him to His House, in heaven, where they would enjoy eternal happiness with Him. They, nevertheless, did not remain obedient, for they sinned, thereby disfiguring their own image and likeness of God. Consequently, they lost the life of eternal happiness in heaven.

Our Heavenly Father, nevertheless, "rich in mercy and by reason of his great love for us" (Eph. 2:4), sent His only begotten Son, who "reflects the brightness of God's glory and is the exact likeness of God's own being" (Heb. 1:1), to renew God's image in us and restore us to the dignity of children of God, so that once again we might become "inheritors" of eternal life (Gal. 4:7). Therefore, through Christ and in Christ, we are able to "put off the old man with his works, and put on the new man, renewed in spirit, created in the image of God, in justice and holiness of truth" (Eph. 4:22-24). In this manner, we can be blessed with the reward of heaven. This is the source of our joy and consolation with the approaching Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Everyone, regardless of status in life, anticipates this joyful holy day of the birth of the Son of God and now prepares for its worthy observance. This is especially appropriate, as we stand on the threshold of the year 2000, the Great Jubilee Year of the birth of our Lord God and Savior Jesus

Christ, who came to us almost 2,000 years ago to renew the Earth. This is why our holy father, Pope John Paul II, in his apostolic letter "Approaching the Third Millennium," reminds all Christians to prepare worthily for this memorable jubilee of the granting of God's many graces and blessings.

The mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God is intimately associated with the rebirth of humanity and our salvation; in that rebirth we see the participation of all three Persons of the Holy Trinity. The Heavenly Father sent His only begotten Son for the redemption of humanity. The Son of God offered Himself in sacrifice of our salvation; and the Holy Spirit, who is "the pledge for our inheritance" (Eph. 1:14) in heaven, sanctifies us and leads us to eternal life. For these reasons, then, the holy father has dedicated the three years preceding the jubilee to the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity.

The vicar of Christ on earth dedicates this coming year, 1997, to a more profound understanding of the Incarnation of the Son of God, who "for our sake and for our salvation came down from heaven, was born of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man" (The Creed). Our preparations, in the course of the coming year, should reflect an unmistakable Christological character and should be inspired by the word of God: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever!" (Heb. 13:8). We must live then, as St. Paul reminds us, "with faith in the Son of God, who loved me and sacrificed Himself for my sake" (Gal. 2:20). We also commemo-

(Continued on page 14)

Preparing for the Great Jubilee

Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Deacons, Venerable Sisters, Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Christ is Born!
Let us Glorify Him!

"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. ... And Joseph too went up from Galilee ... to the city of David that is called Bethlehem ... to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with Child. While they were there ... she gave birth to her first-born Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn" (Lk. 2: 1-7).

Every year we celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and this has been happening for almost 2,000 years. This year can be the same for us as every other year or else it can be much different. The choice is ours. Our holy father, John Paul II in his apostolic letter of November 10, 1992, titled "As the Third Millennium Draws Near," calls all of us to prepare for the "Great Jubilee" in the year 2000. It was a decree from our present-day "Caesar Augustus" that the whole world should prepare for the 2,000th birthday of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Will we listen as did Joseph and Mary or will there be "no room" for Him in our plans? The choice is ours.

The core of His Holiness John Paul II's plan for the new millennium is the three-year span of immediate preparation (1997, 1998, 1999) followed by the Great Jubilee Year, 2000.

During 1997 our focus will be on our faith in Christ. It will be a year of faith in which Christians will seek to renew their appreciation of the Holy Mystery (Sacrament) of Baptism and their relationship to Christ, the Son of God. Mary, the

Mother of Jesus, the Theotokos (God-bearer), will be involved as a model of faith.

During the second year, 1998, a year of hope, our focus will be on the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is within the Church, within each one of us. Are we aware of Him? What are the gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit? How does the Holy Spirit affect our daily lives?

During the third year, 1999, a year of love, our focus will be on God the Father. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life" (Jn. 3:16). "God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God is in Him" (1 Jn. 4:17). It will be a year of love and it will be a time to measure our love, for God by living our love of neighbor.

The Year 2000 — the Great Jubilee — will be a year of celebrations. It will be a year of celebrations if we all prepare for it worthily. Let us begin this Christmas. How? For starters, study carefully the catechism of the Catholic Church at home and in your parishes. Secondly, live the Beatitudes, the blueprint of Christian living. Thirdly, pray daily at home and in your parish churches, alone and as a family. Finally, receive the Holy Mysteries (Sacraments) of Reconciliation and Holy Communion regularly. Jesus said: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world" (Jn. 6:51).

May the newborn Child of Bethlehem bring to you and to all your dear ones the joy and peace that He had brought to the shepherds on that Holy Night in the city of David nearly 2,000 years ago!

† Michael Wiwchar, CSSR
† Innocent Lotocky, OSBM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congratulations are in order

Dear Editor:

Now that the polemics and writing campaigns in The Ukrainian Weekly having to do with the presidential election have come to an end, it is appropriate to congratulate President Bill Clinton and all of his supporters. He ran a superb campaign. (I believe the best since the Johnson-Goldwater landslide of 1964.)

However, more to the point, President Clinton ran an especially important campaign with regard to Ukraine. He fostered and sought our vote, something I was amazed to see was totally forgotten on the Republican side. Given his track record with Ukraine, which is commendable in anybody's good book, Mr. Clinton won many votes from Ukrainian Americans. These are voters who historically viewed Republican presidential candidates as traditionally anti-Communist and "pro-Ukraine." Clearly, this was not an easy choice for many Ukrainian Americans. No doubt this sense of torn allegiance contributed in part to the heated debate evidenced in your letters to the editor during the campaign.

I know that we, as Ukrainian Americans, respect our president and, second, understand that the opposition's

turn will come in a future election.

As the Democratic Party has taken account of its disenfranchisement in the southern states of the U.S., I believe the Republican Party must look at its relationship with what used to be called the "Captive Nations" and especially Ukraine.

It was unfortunate that the debate was reduced to charges and counter-charges that one political party was "more for Ukraine" than the other. There should be no U.S. political party for Ukraine any more than there is a U.S. party for Israel, Russia or Egypt, the other large recipients of U.S. aid. As they say in Washington: "You need to have friends on both sides of the aisle."

Stated differently, our voice should be heard not because we are Democrats or Republicans who may be in power, but because of the truth and strength of our belief and this belief should hold true in Kyiv, as well as in Washington:

We will not stand for or allow another Soviet or Communist regime to occupy and control Ukraine, ever again, because it is not in the interest of the Ukrainian people or the United States of America.

If we can all agree on the above premise, then we are getting that much closer to working together, regardless of political affiliation.

Bohdan D. Shandor
North Brunswick, N.J.

Ukraine must stop death penalty

Dear Editor:

In spite of an agreement to implement an immediate moratorium on the death penalty as a condition for entry into the Council of Europe, Ukraine has been executing hundreds of individuals during the past several years. Amnesty International has uncovered numerous names (Vedmedenko, Ogoltsov, Vysochansky, Markitan, Alkhimov, Skarabagatov, Gumenyuk, Tekuchev, Chernitsa, etc.) of individuals who were executed or are on death row and has appealed to officials in Ukraine to halt the executions forthwith.

For more than a year, Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine (AHRU) also has been writing protests against the death penalty and executions in Ukraine. Letters from AHRU to members of various branches of government in Ukraine have been met with a wall of silence. Letters were sent to President Leonid Kuchma, Minister of Justice Serhii Holovaty, Chairman of the Presidential Clemency Commission Pyotr Andreychenko, Procurator General of Ukraine Hryhorii Vorsinov, Chairman of the Supreme Court of Ukraine Vitalii Boyko, Chairman of the Parliament's Committee on Legal Affairs Leonid Borodych, Foreign Minister of Ukraine Hennadii Udovenko, Chairman of the Commission for Legal Policy and Court and Legal Reform Volodymyr Stretovych, Ambassador Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, wardens of prisons and others. The letters sent were in both English and Ukrainian.

The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda have reported that the issue of the death penalty is finally being discussed in Ukraine after prodding from the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human

Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly. However, it has been repeatedly reiterated by governmental officials that the people of Ukraine overwhelmingly support the death penalty. Even a prominent official such as Borys Oliynyk had flipperily commented that if murders at the airports were to cease he, too, would support termination of the death sentence.

The death penalty and executions have not slowed down murders and crime in Ukraine. In fact, criminal activity has taken a sharp turn upward. As a consequence, many individuals are repeatedly victimized by organized crime. The harsh and swift so-called justice meted out is reminiscent of the justice system in the former Soviet Union and other totalitarian regimes.

AHRU feels that public pressure is the only recourse left to individuals who sincerely care about the future of Ukraine. The issue of terminating the death penalty and instituting an immediate moratorium on executions has been a cause for serious concern by members of the Council of Europe. Since Ukraine agreed to this precondition upon acceptance into the Council of Europe 11 months ago, Ukraine will have to live up to its word if it is to be taken seriously by European countries and function as a civil society.

AHRU is calling upon interested and concerned individuals to respond in a joint effort to bring to the attention of the Ukrainian government the need for an immediate moratorium on the death penalty and executions.

For further information please write or call: AHRU, 43 Midland Place, Newark, N.J. 07106; telephone, (201) 373-9729; fax, (201) 373-4755.

Walter Bodnar
Newark, N.J.

The letter writer is vice-president of Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Christmas in Ukraine, 1996

Not too very long ago, it was accepted practice in our community that Ukrainian Catholic priests and Ukrainian Orthodox priests never sat at the head table together, not even at community-wide events.

For the more reactionary clergy in both groups, the hatred went quite deep. Ukrainian Catholic priests preferred that a Ukrainian Catholic marry a Polish Catholic rather than a Ukrainian Orthodox; Ukrainian Orthodox priests preferred Ukrainian Orthodox youth to marry Serbian Orthodox youth rather than Ukrainian Catholics.

Fortunately, such foolishness finally ended in 1988 when Orthodox, Catholics and the Protestants in America commemorated the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine together.

Even though some tensions between Catholic and Orthodox still remain, especially among the older generation, leaders in both faith expressions have realized that such behavior is hardly Christian.

In Ukraine, however, tensions between Catholics and Orthodox appear to be escalating. Two issues seem to have energized the Orthodox: the Ukrainian Catholic commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the Union of Brest, and the proposed 1997 visit to Ukraine of Pope John Paul II.

Priests loyal to Orthodox Patriarch Aleksey II in Moscow held their own conference to discuss the Union of Brest at the Pushkin Russian Cultural Center in Lviv. They vowed to do everything in their power to prevent the visit of the pope.

Given their loyalties to Moscow, their vow is not surprising. As Marquis Astolphe de Custine observed in 1839, "Russian clergy have never been, and never will be anything more than a militia dressed in a uniform rather different from that of the secular troops of the [Russian] empire."

Personally, I believe priests loyal to the Moscow Patriarchate are the advance team preparing for Ukraine's incorporation by Moscow. They are, in short, Russia's Trojan horse.

Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Kyiv Patriarchate also made his sentiments known. "I believe that due to the situation which presently exists between the Ukrainian Catholic and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the visit of the pope is impossible," he declared. "The time has not yet arrived for him to come here [Ukraine]."

Given his one-time loyalty to the Moscow Patriarchate and his shady past - many believe he was once on the KGB payroll - his remarks also are not surprising.

Volodymyr Sabodan of the UOC-Moscow Patriarchate also voiced his opposition to the papal visit, explaining that "since none of the 15 other Orthodox nations of the world have greeted the pope on their soil, then why should Ukraine, where Orthodoxy has been blossoming for 1,000 years, allow him to visit?"

Now there's a brilliant statement! Ukraine is hardly an Orthodox nation. Ukraine is a pluralistic state wherein most of the citizens are non-believers. Besides, did Ukrainian Orthodoxy blossom under the tsars? Did it blossom under the commissars? Why didn't Moscow recognize the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC) when it was established in

1921? Why did the Moscow patriarch look the other way when all Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox bishops in Ukraine were liquidated?

One final Orthodox prelate on record regarding the proposed papal visit is UAOC Metropolitan Andriy of Ivano-Frankivsk.

His remarks, at least, were a bit more generous. "If we view the pope as the head of the Vatican," he said, "then his visit to a democratic country is a normal thing. But it will further separate the Ukrainian Catholic faithful, who find themselves under the jurisdiction of the Vatican, from Orthodox, whose roots are in Constantinople. We cannot allow this to happen today. During the past five years relatives and neighbors have become enemies because they do not share the same faith. For the sake of peace and tranquility, it is not necessary to invite the pope of Rome for an official visit."

What is Metropolitan Andriy afraid of? I don't understand. How can the visit of a man honored the world over as a man of great Christian faith, peace and justice possibly disrupt the tranquility of a nation?

Will the pope visit Ukraine? Given Orthodox opposition, the answer is probably not. Better he stay away than have Moscow-inspired demonstrations (upon which the Western media would focus, regardless of size) mar a visit to a nation he helped liberate.

Ironic, isn't it? The one Church leader who did the most to bring about the collapse of the Soviet Union will be prevented from coming to an independent Ukraine because of remarks by such former Soviet shills as Filaret!

Today, thank God, Ukraine is an independent, democratic, pluralistic nation with people of many faiths. If the pope wishes to visit his faithful, he should be invited. If the patriarch of Constantinople wishes to visit his faithful, he, too, should be invited. Both men enjoy enormous worldwide prestige, and their visits would benefit Ukraine greatly.

As much as I mistrust Patriarch Aleksey II, even he should not be barred from a visit to Ukraine. He is entitled to the honor and respect of his office, regardless of his personal leanings.

When will the people of Ukraine finally understand that Ukraine is neither Orthodox nor Catholic. Ukraine is both. It is also Protestant, Jewish and Moslem.

It is a sad thing indeed that Christmas in Ukraine in 1996 should be marred by such partisan in-fighting by people who profess to be Christian. What kind of example do they present to those who were, and remain unchurched?

As we once again prepare for the coming of the Christchild, those of us who live in North America, people of all faith expressions, but especially Catholics and Orthodox, need to come together in common prayer. This Christmas, once more, we need to demonstrate to our Catholic and Orthodox brethren in Ukraine that we are united in our common belief and mutual appreciation and love for each other. Perhaps our two metropolitans can celebrate a service of common cause. Perhaps this can be done on a Sunday between December 25 and January 7. Perhaps all of us can pray harder.

This Christmas the Christians of Ukraine really do need our prayers.

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed (double-spaced) and signed; they must be originals, not photocopies.

The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes.

A Christmas Miracle

by Edward Andrusko

I arrived early in the morning at the San Diego railroad station and joined throngs of anxious holiday travelers who were heavily laden with baggage and Christmas gifts. We all slowly climbed aboard the long, crowded, overbooked holiday train. Lines of military and civilian passengers pushed and shoved each other, scrambling for the last remaining seats.

The giant train engine, smoking and puffing steam, was ready to pull the lengthy train across the United States. It would take an eternity – four days and four nights to reach New York City. Still weak from malaria and hurting from my recent battle wounds, I was not looking forward to this long, boring trip.

Awkwardly, I struggled down the long coach aisle, carrying my U.S. Marine Corps sea bag. Panic set in as I neared the end of this car. It was the last car and all the seats looked occupied. My anxiety was interrupted by a loud voice: "Over here, Marine, and hurry up; I have a seat for you."

I hurried over and sat down next to a U.S. Navy sailor, and thanked him for the seat.

"Hi, mate! They call me 'Ski,' because of my long Polish last name."

I replied, "Hi, Mate. They call me 'Eddy Lee,' because of my long Ukrainian name." We both grinned and clumsily shook left hands. My wounded right hand was in a sling; and his right arm was amputated, with his empty jumper sleeve pinned up at the shoulder.

When I saw the many U.S. Navy men and women struggling through the narrow aisle, I asked Ski why he, a Navy man, gave me, a Marine, this seat. Ski said, "Well, I saw your shoulder patch, your combat ribbons and battle stars, and I knew that you and I fought in the same campaigns. You were on the land, and I was on the sea." He added, "I served aboard the USS Chicago, a cruiser named after my hometown. I lost my arm when we were torpedoed off the island you were fighting on."

The coach door opened abruptly, and the train conductor called out: "Last call for Salt Lake-Denver-Chicago-and-New York City – all aboard!" The locomotive's loud steam whistle blew; then with the clang of its large bell we started to move very slowly. In a few rumbling minutes we picked up speed. Soon, with a resounding roar, we were crossing southern California and headed east.

Ski and I were both proud of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, but were bitter toward the military hospital we had just left. This hospital had an inefficient administrative system, and their medical staff was overworked and burned out. Four years of war and the continuous flow of casualties rotating through this facility had created a callous attitude. We were disenchanted with the negative treatment we had received from the military and the apathetic civilian world since our return to United States. It was this type of poor management that put us rehabilitating servicemen on this crowded train rather than on an airplane.

This would be my fourth Christmas away from home. The season always made me sad because of the many friends who had died in battle during this holiday.

Our iron horse was traveling at maximum speed, but across the great American desert it seemed like we were not moving fast enough. We passengers had too much time on our hands. We could sleep sitting up in our seats, stand in line for meals and the washroom, or exchange bittersweet battle memories with our train mates. Ski and I agreed that we both became near atheists and cynics after three years of war. Soon we all tried to sleep the time away.

The train stopped at Salt Lake City. The scenery was fabulous, but the cold, snow-capped mountains had us all putting on our overcoats. Our coach car never did get warm, and most of us were coming from the tropics via California, so we would not warm up for weeks.

En route to Denver our train wound ever so slowly through many tunnels, around picturesque snow-covered mountains and valleys. I consoled myself that time was no longer important. What was my hurry? I would miss Christmas at home by a day. My parents had split up, and I had no home to go to. My girlfriend of four years had sent me a "Dear John" letter, saying she had waited too long for me to return and found someone else. And worst of all, when I was well enough for duty, I could be sent overseas to battle again.

We left Denver early in the morning in a snowstorm. Our train's whistle blew often as we charged across the prairie states through a howling blizzard. It was nightfall somewhere in Illinois. Our train slowed to a crawl due to poor visibility. The train's mournful whistle wailed continuously, as we passed many small towns. It was very cold outside, and getting colder inside our passenger coach. I thought, "Lord, will my luck ever change?"

It was Christmas Eve; the train conductor entered our car and called out, "It's ten o'clock, two hours to Chicago, next stop Chicago!" He dimmed the lights and left. Most passengers became quiet or had already fallen asleep.

Ski turned to me and said, "Eddy Lee, I'm worried about my family meeting me at the Chicago station and seeing me like this. I asked my girl not to come. What should I do or say to them?"

"Act natural, they know about your arm, try to be yourself. You all love each other, and I'll bet they will thank God that you made it home alive. It will all work out fine; you'll see. Now let's try to get some sleep."

Our train suddenly made an unscheduled, metal-screaming stop. A few waking passengers muttered, "What's going on?" "Must be a mail or milk supply stop." "This sure as hell isn't Chicago!" Others looked out of their frosty windows and said, "This is nowhere." Most of the passengers went back to sleep.

I looked out the window and could see only a small, dimly lit railroad station surrounded by large snowdrifts and darkness. The door at the other end of the car opened, and, in the darkened car light, I could barely see a small boy and a mature woman coming into our coach. They walked slowly up the aisle, looking at the passengers – or apparently looking for a seat. The two strangers

cautiously headed toward my end of the car. I closed my eyes and tried to get back to sleep, wondering why the train was not moving. It just sat there at this lonely, dark railroad station. I fell asleep for a few minutes, until I heard a noise in front of me. I slowly opened my eyes and saw a young boy about 8 or 9 years old standing in front of me, staring.

The boy smiled and said, "Welcome home and a Merry Christmas, Marine. My grandmother and I would like to give you a gift and a thank-you for serving our country." The boy handed me a dollar bill and then shook my hand. The grandmother put her arm around me and said, "God bless you." Then they both smiled and said, "Merry Christmas and good-bye."

I was surprised and very moved. I said, "Thank you, thank you very much." I searched in my sea bag for some sort of Christmas gift for the boy to reciprocate. When I looked up, I was puzzled that they were gone.

Our train whistle blew; we lunged forward and were rolling again. I quickly looked out my frosty window and saw the boy and his grandmother leaving the dismal railroad station. I waved good-bye as they slipped into the darkness. They did not see me.

I sat back in my seat bewildered, wondering what had just happened. Was it real? I queried Ski and the two soldiers sitting across from me if they, too, had seen the little boy and his grandmother. They said, "No, we were sleeping." Ski added, "You must have been dreaming."

My mind raced with questions. Who were they? Why did they pass by all those other servicemen, including other Marines, and then stop in front of me? Maybe I was sleeping. With all the medication I was taking for pain and malaria, it just could have been a strange, nice dream.

It was two more hours to Chicago, and I decided to try to get some sleep. But before closing my eyes, I looked down at my left hand and tightly closed fist. I slowly opened my hand and there was a crumpled-up dollar bill! My hand held the gift the young boy had given me – proving it really did happen. I contentedly fell asleep with my precious gift tucked safely in my pocket and a pleasant feeling in my heart – the nicest feeling I had in a very long time.

The conductor came into the car and yelled, "next stop Chicago, five minutes!" Passengers were taking down their baggage from the overhead compartments. I helped Ski with his sea bag. He was getting off; he was home. People were anxiously lining up in the aisles to disembark.

The train slowed as we pulled into Chicago's Union Station. Ski and I said our emotional good-byes as the train came to a complete stop. The crowd of passengers left through both exit doors. I sat back, waiting to continue my odyssey of another thousand miles to New York City.

It was midnight and Christmas. As I looked out the train window, I was surprised to see hundreds of people, young and old, on the station platform, all holding candles and sheet music and singing Christmas Carols. The people and the station were all decked out in the holiday spirit with decorations. It was a bitter cold, snowy Christmas night in Chicago, but the holiday spirit warmed all our hearts.

As I was enjoying the joyful singing, our train car doors opened and the singing choirs of young people paraded in. Each singer carried a tray of food and drinks; each tray held a complete Christmas dinner with a small gift on it. There were enough trays for everyone on the train. We were no longer strangers, we all sang, ate and celebrated together. It was the most beautiful, festive Christmas I had ever had. Our generous Chicago hosts cheerfully wished us a "Very merry Christmas and a welcome home!"

This train odyssey and these unbelievably beautiful events changed my bitter emotional and spiritual feelings; I felt I really had made it home for Christmas.

Many years later I was telling this story to my family at Christmas time. I pondered out loud, "Who was that little boy on the train, and why did he and his grandmother choose me? Why me?"

Our visiting young niece was playing on the floor with her Christmas toy. She had quietly and attentively listened to my sentimental wartime train story and replied, "I know."

We all looked at her and I said, "You know what?"

"I know who the little boy on the train was, and why he picked you. The little boy was God, and He chose you because you were very, very sad and disappointed with everyone and everything. He wanted to make you happy again and welcome you home – and He did!"

Throughout the years I knew a Christmas miracle had happened to me when I needed it most – during the war, on that train, and in Chicago.

About the Author

Edward Andrusko was born in Perth Amboy, N. J. After high school he joined the U.S. Marines at age 17. He served four years, three years as a combat Infantry Marine, was wounded three times in the war and decorated.

Mr. Andrusko studied American history and literature at the University of Colorado. He is a member of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation, The U.S. Naval Institute and The Rocky Mountain Writers Guild Inc.

His combat art and historical compositions have been published in the *Leatherneck*, *Military*, *Marine Corps League and Gazette*, *Old Breed*, *The Echo*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *Peleliu Remembered*, *Petra Magazine* and *The Right to Fight Commemorative Series*, *History and Museums Division, Headquarters, U.S.M.C. and NAVAL History*.

Of this true story from World War II, published here, Mr. Andrusko writes:

"Is it ever too late to say thank you to the people of a generation long past? I would like the present age group to know of the generousities and warm-spirited kindness shown to strangers by strangers during a very difficult time in our country."

DATELINE NEW YORK: Christmas offerings in the city

by Helen Smindak

Little Ukraine, the portion of Manhattan's East Village that is the traditional center of Ukrainian community life in the Big Apple, becomes very vibrant and spirited at this time of year. There are bazaars, workshops and art exhibits, an abundance of enchanting folkware gifts in the stores and wonderful treats in the restaurants and meat markets.

A trip to the Village on a recent Saturday morning rewarded me with so many ethnic delights and tastes that I stayed on until late evening. For starters, from mid-morning until almost four in the afternoon I accompanied the annual Ukrainian Christmas walking tour led by author and culinary anthropologist Iris Friedlander for the past 10 years.

This year's tour group, 15 persons in all, assembled at New York University for a briefing on Ukrainian Christmas customs by Ms. Friedlander, an ethnic specialist, and a description of the tour itinerary — stops at St. George Church and the Surma book shop, lunch in the church rectory building, and a visit to The Ukrainian Museum.

When the rest of the Christian world ends its Christmas festivities and after the new year is fully hatched, Ms. Friedlander told tour members, Ukrainians in New York begin "solemn religious rituals and culinary traditions, some of which date from pagan times." She was referring to the celebration of Ukrainian Christmas by the Julian calendar, on January 7.

At St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, whose domes and large central cupola, the group was met by a beaming Father Lawrence, the Argentine-born Ukrainian priest who has been serving the parish for many years. Escorting visitors through the church nave with its exquisite murals, mosaics and stained glass windows, Father Lawrence explained the order of service, pointed out the fine wood carving on the iconostas and identified the saints portrayed in the icons. In a room used by the clergy during services, he held up hand-embroidered vestments and jeweled chalices and Bibles to admiring "ohs" and "ahs" from the sightseers.

Myron and Magda Surmach, who run the Surma book and gift store across the street from St. George's, welcomed the visitors into their 100-year-old fairy-tale shop, where they examined embroidered blouses, hand-painted Easter eggs, icons, jewelry, patterned ribbons and an array of books and periodicals. While Ukrainian Christmas carols filled the air, the excited customers made gift selections and toured the office in the back of the shop that is like a tiny museum — it duplicates the interior of a Hutsul wood home, complete with a ceiling beam artfully decorated by a master woodcarver, a replica of a clay oven, and a stunning collection of carved wood plates, embroidered cloths and ceramic ware.

Luncheon in the parish restaurant a few doors away began with "kutia," defined by Ms. Friedlander as "a sweet wheat porridge which comprises the first and most important course of the 12-course meatless, dairyless Sviata Vecheria," the holy supper served on January 6. Other traditional dishes followed: hot borshch, potato and sauerkraut-filled varenyky, and rice-stuffed cabbage rolls, with squares of honey cake and apple cake teaming up with coffee or tea for dessert, all prepared by the senior ladies who make up the restaurant staff.

At The Ukrainian Museum, preparations were under way for the next day's Christmas bazaar as the tour group entered 203 Second Ave. A Christmas workshop was in progress, with youngsters and

adults using beads, walnut shells, colored ribbons and paper to create spiders, cradles, stars, mobiles and garlands.

Here, Luba Wolynetz, curator of the museum's folk art collection, shared her expertise in Ukrainian folklore, explaining Christmas Eve rituals and the 12 vegetarian dishes of the holy supper. Describing the decoration of the supper table, she noted that the centerpiece is composed of three round braided breads, placed one atop the other. In pagan times, the breads symbolized the sun, but now stand for the Trinity or the three stages of life.

The tour concluded with a viewing of the folk costume exhibit and the museum's newest exhibition, a collection of richly hued kylims. The attractive, tapestry-like rugs, which were used by Ukrainians primarily as hangings and floor and furniture coverings, received the unanimous approbation of the tour group.

Little Ukraine treasures

As the company of sightseers dispersed in the gathering dusk, I strolled south on Second Avenue to the block between Ninth Street and St. Mark's Place that accommodates the Ukrainian National Home, the Ukrainian Restaurant and the Veselka Coffee Shop (newly modernized and touting a street sign that reads "The best borscht in town!"). A sign on the door of the Plast Domivka announced that St. Nicholas was due to visit the premises on December 14, and "all children in New York and vicinity" were invited. Through the windows of the East Village Meat Market, one could see rows of plump rosy Ukrainian sausages hanging from ceiling racks, and shelves filled with braided breads and boxes of crisp khrustyky.

Outside the Ukrainian Liberation Front Home, at 136 Second Ave., Mayana Gallery posters notified everyone that a pre-Christmas exhibit by 10 artists from Ukraine was taking place inside. An elevator ride to the fourth floor brought me into the gallery, where curator Slava Gerulak was discussing the show with a couple of visitors.

On display were several dozen oil paintings with Hutsul landscapes and folkloric themes, wood carvings with pearl inlay, leather articles inlaid with metal, and musical instruments, all imported from Ukraine by Roman Miklashchuk of Gallery Ukraine in Montreal.

Ms. Gerulak reported that the Mayana Gallery would host St. Andrew's Eve festivities (Andriyivskii Vechir) on December 13 that would include village-style fortune-telling, bandura music by Lavrentiya Turkewycz, and Hutsul folk music by Mr. Miklashchuk and Andrij Milyavsky.

At 5 p.m., I headed for Fourth Avenue and Ninth Street to the Shevchenko Scientific Society, where author/editor Yevhen Misylo of Warsaw was to give a report on Akcja Wisla, the 1947 Polish policy that resulted in the forcible deportation of hundreds of thousands of Lemko Ukrainians from southeast Poland. Not a Christmas subject, to be sure, but one that many considered important, for the Shevchenko center was filled. Mr. Misylo, who has spent years researching military archives and collecting documents pertaining to the Wisla action, reported that preparatory work is being done on a collection of Lemko songs and an encyclopedia of Ukrainians in Poland.

Traditional images

Appropriately for Christmas, an art exhibit with Biblical subjects — the Virgin Mary and Christ, angels, archangels, saints and prophets — opened on December 2 at the



Icon by Yaroslava Surmach Mills.

Interchurch Center of Riverside Church, Claremont Avenue and 120th Street in Manhattan. It features the work of five women artists who have been meeting together for the past six years, painting icons in the traditional method of this discipline.

"A Celebration of Icons: Traditional Images by Contemporary Women" includes the work of two Ukrainians, Yaroslava Surmach Mills, the instructor, and Stella Baker, a former real estate agent who is now a decorative painter, and three others: Susan Gewirtz, who began to illustrate children's books after she retired as a New York City school teacher, Eileen McCabe, principal of St. John's Academy in Hillsdale, N.J., and Joan Monastero, a collage artist.

Meeting weekly at Mrs. Mills' home in West Nyack, N.Y., the women worked with materials that are required of a true icon. They studied and worked from existing icons, trying to remain true to the spirit and appearance of the subject. By working together, they feel they are able to support each other's efforts.

Reaching back into Eastern Christian traditions, icons are considered a form of sacred art and have been used through the centuries as an aid to contemplation and prayer, Mrs. Baker told visitors at the opening reception on December 9.

Mrs. Mills, who studied the ancient method of icon painting in the early 1980s with Vladislav Andreyev, a Russian icon expert, said she became interested in icon images as a teenager, after receiving a small primitive Ukrainian triptych (a three-panel icon) from her parish priest at St. George Church.

Teaching the Andreyev method, Mrs. Mills shows her students how to prepare a wood board with many coats of gesso made with rabbit skin glue and whiting; to gild the halos with 23-carat gold leaf, and to mix the powdered pigments with distilled water and egg yolk to make egg tempera.

To achieve rich color, many layers of egg tempera are "floated" on the gessoed panel. Details are redrawn and highlights are repainted as each new layer dries. In the final stage, as hot linseed oil is poured onto

the hardened egg tempera and spread across the panel by the artist's fingers.

Because no step in icon painting can be rushed (an icon can take up to a year to complete), the process becomes absorbing and meditative, Mrs. Mills said. The others concurred, calling it "a good discipline," "a spiritual journey" and "an artistic experience."

Mrs. Mills is famed for her reverse glass paintings depicting Ukrainian folk customs, and is now becoming known as an icon specialist as well. Her Christmas glass painting, "Christmas is Here!" which has been printed as a greeting card, was used to illustrate a story by Robb Walsh on "A Ruthenian Christmas" in the Christmas issue of the Museum of Natural History's official publication. She is currently working on an extended project for St. Demetrius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Toronto, designing stained glass windows with Ukrainian themes.

The icon exhibit runs through December. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, and admission is free. For further information, call the Interchurch Center, (212) 870-2933.

"The Forest of Love"

Jack Palance is known for his laconic character. He's a man of few words, both on screen and in person; his comments are usually terse and concise. He doesn't have to say much; his eyes, face and actions speak volumes — unless he's got something mighty important to say. Then he speaks up volubly, as he did a few years ago when he was asked to speak before the U.S. Senate Special Committee of Aging.

His discourse on the theme "aging artfully" included this statement: "One of the most important reasons for living is to do something — live outside of yourself and put together an idea, an idea that you want to explore and then complete. ... Awaken your creative sensitivities!"

Following this credo, he has been painting and writing poetry and prose for years. Back in 1970 he read a poem

(Continued on page 10)



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Christmas offerings...

(Continued from page 9)

about his father and the rigors of coal mining work when he appeared at Harvard University during a convention of the Ukrainian Studies Fund. He says he wrote "a bunch of poems in Kyiv last spring," when he was there to participate in the Chernobyl commemoration.

His first published literary work, a story in blank verse, was launched several weeks ago and the first printing is completely sold out in New York book stores.

"The Forest of Love," published by Summerhouse Press of South Carolina, is a slender volume with a dark green cover and a lilac-and-green dust jacket. It tells "the story of a man, a woman and a forest." That's how Mr. Palance described it in a telephone conversation from his farm in Latimer, Pa., where he recently spent a few days resting up from numerous appearances on New York television talk shows — "Geraldo," "Live with Regis and Kathie Lee," the "Charles Grodin Show" and the "Gordon Elliott Show," with more appearances coming up on "Fox After Breakfast" and Conan O'Brien's "Late, Late Show."

Because I received a copy of the book just before my deadline, a review will have to wait for a later Dateline. However, I can quote what the publisher says about "The Forest of Love:"

"Palance takes us on an intimate and emotional ride through a love affair — the love of a woman and the love of nature — brilliantly intertwining his art and text in a journey filled with exhilaration, passion, ecstasy, disappointment, remorse and, ultimately, rebirth."

Mr. Palance wrote the story in one month in California, and has plans for other books "if I'm accepted as a writer." He would like his next work to be a novel titled "Elizabeth and the Tall Thin Man," followed by "Ballad of the Wind." His fourth published work would be the book he has been carrying in his mind for years — the story of his father's harsh life as a Pennsylvania coal miner. And maybe, later, "147 Poems By ...".

Jack Palance the author may be a startling revelation to many people, who know him only as Jack Palance the actor or Jack Palance who does one-arm push-ups during the Oscar Award presentation.

For Jack Palance the man there's no conundrum: he majored in journalism in college, worked for a newspaper and wrote short stories before becoming a prize fighter and then an actor. He's just following his natural instincts and keep-

ing his creative sensitivities awake.

The actor, who has appeared in over 56 films, eight plays and more than 50 television programs, says he hasn't given up film acting. He is presently considering an offer to appear as the grandfather in the film "Heidi" (to be filmed in Austria next spring) and a role in a film in Crimea — "but I don't know whether I'll take it," he notes.

As an author, Mr. Palance will be appearing sometime in January on the "Charlie Rose Show" and in late January on Leeza Gibbons' show. So watch the TV listings and tune in to hear him read an excerpt from "The Forest of Love." Better yet, try your local bookstore for a copy (\$22) to read the text and admire his art work first hand.

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

deputies came to the aid of their colleague. Deputy Moiseyenko stated that he does not recognize the Constitution of independent Ukraine. Parliament Chairman Oleksander Moroz warned Mr. Moiseyenko that if he persisted, he would be charged with an anti-constitutional act. (OMRI Daily Digest)

World Bank approves new loan

KYIV — The World Bank approved a \$300 million loan to Ukraine for its coal sector reforms, Reuters reported on December 11. The loan will be dispersed in two equal tranches. It has a 17-year maturity and a five-year grace period, and was made at the bank's standard interest rate for dollar loans. Ukraine's coal sector reform program spans eight years. The same day, Ukrainian radio reported that the head of the national agency for reconstruction and development, Roman Shpek, signed a memorandum with the European Union on funding for 1996. By the end of the year Ukraine will have received \$40 million under the program for financing state structure reform, economic restructuring, private sector development and non-nuclear energy projects. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Correction

In last week's Newsbriefs, the title of patriarch was misplaced in an item about Orthodox unity. The correct titles are: Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church — Kyiv Patriarchate and Metropolitan Volodymyr Sabodan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church — Moscow Patriarchate.

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Shcherbak...

(Continued from page 2)

In view of such unfriendly actions of the Russian Federations' Federal Assembly, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine makes a resolute protest against falsifications, specifically around the status of the city of Sevastopol which is an inalienable part of Ukraine, rejects any territorial claims on Ukraine and views them as a deliberate undermining of European security.

"The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine declares that Sevastopol has been and shall remain Ukrainian territory. No one in Ukraine shall ever carry on any negotiations which would contradict the Constitution of Ukraine, its legislation, its national interests, and which would lead to its territorial disintegration.

"Proceeding from the aforesaid, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine introduces the draft bill on withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of Ukraine and appeals to international institutions on grounds of infringement upon our sovereignty."

Let me give a brief account of the main points of our position:

1) According to Article 17 of the Constitution of Ukraine, "Foreign military bases may not be located on the territory of Ukraine." Taking into consideration the real situation in Sevastopol on the day of adoption of the Constitution - June 28 - Paragraph 14 of the Transitional Provisions was adopted stipulating that "the use of existing military bases on the territory of Ukraine for the temporary deployment of foreign military formations is permissible on the basis of leasing terms described in international treaties of Ukraine, ratified by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine."

2) All the historical materials on the national and legal status of Sevastopol, which have been distributed here, testify to the indisputable status of Sevastopol as a Ukrainian city. With regard to the USSR's law "On the Transfer of the Crimean Oblast from the Russian Federation to the Ukrainian SSR" of April 26, 1954, I would like to underline that the Crimean Oblast as a whole was transferred to Ukraine. This included the city of Sevastopol.

Since 1954, Sevastopol has been an integral part of Ukraine in all areas of state and political life, be it in its subordination, in the day-to-day activities of its executive and representative bodies, in funding from the Ukrainian state budget, etc. The current status was codified in the Soviet Constitutions of the Russian Federation and Ukraine in 1978, which placed Moscow and Leningrad in the list of cities of republican subordination in Russia, while Kyiv and Sevastopol were considered cities of republican subordination in Ukraine.

Let me also offer some personal observations. When I was minister of environmental protection of Ukraine, prior to the disso-

lution of the USSR, I paid a lot of attention specifically to ecological problems of Sevastopol as a Ukrainian city. The environmental authorities in Sevastopol were subordinated to me, and we instituted control over the ecological activity of the Black Sea Fleet, which caused a great deal of damage to the Black Sea basin. The lack of drinking water has been and remains one of the most dramatic problems in Sevastopol since its natural water reservoirs have been exhausted. This problem can be solved only through delivery of water from the Dnipro River to Crimea.

Neither before nor after the dissolution of the USSR no one - I emphasize, no one either in Sevastopol or in Moscow - ever raised the question of the Russian status of the city. This issue was invented by those who desire to complicate the situation in the region, as well as in Europe as a whole.

3) As is well known, 80 to 90 percent of the Black Sea Fleet of the former USSR was deployed in Sevastopol. The Soviet Union viewed this navy base as a hypothetical bridgehead in contingency plans for seizing Black Sea straits in conjunction with ground forces deployed in the Balkans and the Caucasus. The Black Sea Fleet was designed to provide strategic offensive actions not only on the Black Sea, but also in the Mediterranean theater of war.

With the collapse of the Soviet empire this function of Sevastopol has ceased to exist. Ukraine has no plans for military confrontation with its Black Sea neighbors. Moreover, it does not envisage any future military operations in the Mediterranean.

The Ukrainian navy operates on the basis of a defensive military doctrine. Its main task is to defend the southern sea borders of Ukraine in the area of the Black Sea.

I would like to remind you that there is no historical precedent in which a single fleet has ever served two states, especially two states with divergent interests.

I would also like to mention that the Caspian flotilla of the former Soviet navy was divided among Russia, Azerbaijan and Kazakstan.

All these facts prove that the idea to suspend the division of the Black Sea Fleet and establish a joint Russian-Ukrainian fleet does not make sense and has no legal, political or military grounds.

As Ukrainian Minister of Defense Oleksander Kuzmuk stated on December 6, "there cannot be any joint command."

4) According to the Sochi arrangements between the presidents of Ukraine and Russia of June 9, 1995, vessels and other moveable property should be divided 50-50. At the same time Ukraine will have 18.3 percent of the Black Sea Fleet battleships, and 31.7 percent of battle-ships will be transferred to Russia on the basis of compensation. And we shall abide by these principles in the future.

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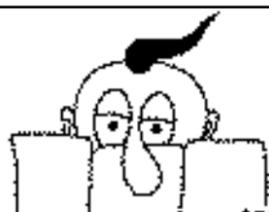
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Shcherbak...

(Continued from page 11)

Let me emphasize that before Russia ceased implementation of the arrangements concerning the fleet's division, this process was proceeding rather successfully.

As of now, the Ukrainian navy has more than 70 ships and vessels, which are deployed in Sevastopol, Odesa, Kerch and Ochakiv. As soon as the division of the fleet is accomplished, the quantity of ships and vessels in the Ukrainian navy will reach about 150 units.

According to the Sochi agreement from June 9, 1995, the main base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet will be located in the city of Sevastopol and basing of the two fleets shall be separate. The Russian side, arbitrarily interpreting the above provision, insists on the following:

1. That the entire city of Sevastopol be the base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet. This is a demonstration of territorial and property claims on the Ukrainian city of Sevastopol and on its ground infrastructure, which belong to Ukraine.

2. The Russian side objects to the deployment of the Ukrainian navy headquarters and the main base of the Ukrainian navy in Sevastopol.

In connection with this I should say the following:

• The sea-based facilities of Sevastopol are such that that allow the Ukrainian and Russian fleets to operate independently of each other. This is adequately illustrated by a map of Sevastopol. Besides this we have examples from international practice. Say, the military and naval base in Subic Bay, (the Philippines) where Philippine and American fleets are based together. Another example is Naples, which serves as a base for the American and Italian navies.

• No person and no state has a right to dictate to Ukraine where it should deploy its navy on its own territory. The question of deployment of the Ukrainian navy's headquarters and battleships is not a subject of negotiations. This is a purely internal matter of Ukraine.

The decisions by Russia's Federation Council was taken very seriously by the leadership of Ukraine and by Ukrainian public opinion. The Ukrainian leadership has approached the developing situation with extreme care.

President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine is in full control of the situation, while the National Security and Defense Council has prepared a packet of documents which outline the necessary countermeasures.

We appeal to the world community – to the U.N., the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the Black Sea Cooperation Council, leaders of friendly countries, including the U.S.A. – to take all measures in order to convince Russia that the path of territorial claims is counterproductive.

We would certainly not wish that certain Russian politicians, for the sake of their ambitious aspirations and neo-imperial illusions, cause irreparable damage to friendly relations between the Ukrainian and Russian people.

The Ukrainian leadership will do its best not to allow the situation to be aggravated to the utmost limits. We will not allow this situation to be used as a reason for disagreements and hostilities between our states and peoples. We are ready to continue negotiating the basic Ukrainian-Russian treaty on friendship and cooperation. We also wish to jointly solve the problems of economic cooperation between our countries.

We believe that political wisdom and common sense will prevail in the long run.

Thank you.

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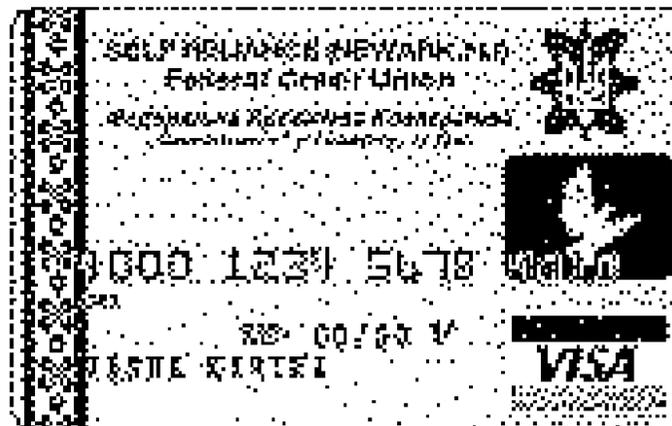
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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Receives Canadian national youth award

OTTAWA – Madame Diana Fowler Leblanc, wife of the queen's personal representative in Canada, Governor General Romeo Leblanc, presented Marc Marzotto of Windsor with the NORTEL National Youth Award.

The presentation, in the presence of hundreds of guests, took place in Ottawa on November 24, in the Great Hall of the prestigious National Art Gallery of Canada.

It was held in conjunction with the recognition of Canada's other outstanding young individuals of various youth-oriented business and community organizations, such as Windsor's Junior Achievement Company, of which Mr. Marzotto was the most prominent member – the 1996 Most Valuable Achiever in Canada.

NORTEL, an international leader in the field of telecommunications research, development and production, was the major sponsor of this event.

The inscription on Mr. Marzotto's trophy reads: "NORTEL. National Youth Award. Presented to Marc Marzotto for leadership, commitment and innovation. November 26, 1996. Canada's Children ... Canada's Future conference, Ottawa."

Upon graduating from high school this year, Mr. Marzotto received scholarships from the Ukrainian National Association, the Ukrainian Graduates of Windsor and Detroit, and the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada as well a university and high school grants.

During his high school years, his achievements included: winner of the International Student Forum Scholarship, president for three terms of the Junior Achievement Company and Student of the Year.

Mr. Marzotto's Ukrainian-related involvements include folk dancing and bandura playing with Windsor's bandura and dance ensembles.

He is a graduate of the Ukrainian immersion course given by the Petro Mohyla Institute of Saskatoon, where he was the student council president. He was selected by the institute to be the 1996 student exchange representative to Ukraine. He not only enjoyed this, but also the company of his cousin, Jaroslav Dutkewych, the director of the United States Peace Corps in Ukraine.

Mr. Marzotto, his brother Anthony and his sister Anna, children of Tito and Svitlana Marzotto, are students of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. They are members of UNA Branch 341 in Windsor, of which their mother, Svitlana



Madame Diana Fowler Leblanc, wife of Canada's governor general, presents the NORTEL National Youth Award to Mark Marzotto.

Serves as assistant set designer for play

ALFRED, N.Y. — Ruta O. Lew of Oakton, Va., was part of a recent theatrical production on the Alfred University campus.

Miss Lew, a sophomore theater major,



Ruta O. Lew

was an assistant set designer for the October 9-12 production of "The World Before Us," directed by Dr. Becky Prophet. According to a press release issued by the university, the play focused on various creation myths around the world, and featured writing and interpretation by students.

Miss Lew has been active in theater since high school. A 1991 graduate of Flint Hill School in Oakton, Miss Lew played the role of Jan in the school's 1990 production of the musical "Grease."

At Alfred University she worked on the set crew of the play "La Ronde," and assisted in designing the costumes and the set for the play "The Bacchae."

She is a graduate of the Washington area Ukrainian Saturday School and was a counselor in the Ukrainian youth organization Plast.

Alfred University, located in the Finger Lakes region of New York state, has been consistently ranked in the top of the 505 regional universities in the annual U.S. News and World report survey. Ranked 15th this year, it is the ninth consecutive year that Alfred has been ranked in the top 15 in the North in the annual guide.

Miss Lew is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wasyl Lew of Oakton. She is a member of UNA Branch 158.

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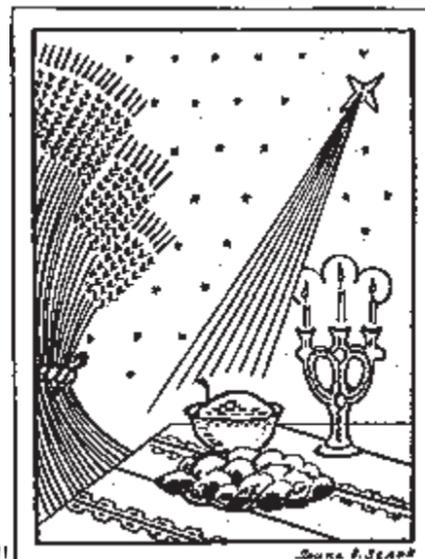
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Approaching...

(Continued from page 6)

rate the Most Holy Mother of God, who gave birth to the Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ, and serves as a sanctified example of a "life of faith" (Rom. 1:17), most appropriate for the children of God.

The year 1998 is dedicated in a special way to the Holy Spirit, through whom the Incarnation of the Son of God was accomplished in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with the words of the Angel, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow; and the Holy One, born of you, shall be called the Son of God" (Lk. 1:35). This same Holy Spirit descended upon Him at His baptism in the River Jordan, and anointed Him to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven (Lk. 4:18). Then, the Son of God, having completed His mission of salvation sent us the Holy Spirit in the fullest measure, who renewed in us the image and likeness of God, and restored us to life as children of God. Therefore, "sealed with the Holy Spirit" (Eph. 1:13), each day we are "enriched in the hope" (Rom. 15:13) of our salvation.

As we prepare ourselves for the worthy observance of this Great Jubilee, we must find in our hearts the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit, who is the life-giving source of our hope for eternal life in God, for, as St. Paul reminds us, "we are saved through hope" (Rom. 8:24).

In this year, dedicated to the Holy Spirit, we also turn our thoughts to the Most Holy Mother of God. She having conceived in her womb "by the Holy Spirit" (Mt. 1:20), unreservedly dedicated herself to His word "hoping against all hope" (Rom. 4:18), that "the promise made to her by the Lord be fulfilled" (Lk. 1:45). She is, for us, a living example of how we are to live with faith in God's promise.

The Incarnation and coming to earth of the Son of God is an unmistakable confirmation of God's love for us. The year of 1999, therefore, is dedicated to our Heavenly Father, who "so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die, but have eternal life" (Jn. 3:16). In these words Christ revealed to us His Heavenly Father and His infinite love for us.

The essential basis for our preparation of the commemoration of the 2,000th anniversary of the Incarnation of the Son of God should be a complete conversion to the Lord God through a conscientious purification of our souls, and virtuous service in His love. This is in accord with the words of the Gospel, for God called us through Christ, that we be "holy and without blemish before Him in love" (Eph. 1:4).

The theological virtue of love, which should be the basis of the moral life of every Christian, flows from the eternal

source of the love of God, for, "God is love" (1 Jn. 4:16). The first and foremost commandment for us all, then, is the commandment to have undivided love for God, and the second is similar to it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mt. 22:39). This theological virtue of love is the "bond of perfection" (Col. 3:14), which finds its realization in the Gospel of Christ.

It was with love that the Blessed Virgin Mary, as the chosen daughter of the Heavenly Father, consented to become the mother of the future Savior, "Behold: I am the handmaid of the Lord" (Lk. 1:13). As the perfect example of the love of God and neighbor, she remains for us the constant example and inspiration to return to the house of our Heavenly Father, with this maternal reminder, "Do whatever He tells you" (Jn. 2:5).

The holy father has designed a program for the observance of this special jubilee, with this threefold emphasis. The main thrust of the celebration is the adoration of the Most Holy Trinity, from which all the world has come, and all in the world seek to return. Our immediate preparation for the jubilee is marked by this threefold mystery, that is, through the Son of God, in the Holy Spirit, to God the Father.

An international Eucharistic Congress will be held in Rome at the conclusion of this extraordinary jubilee celebration, for the Divine Savior, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is continually born again in our churches and sacrificed on our altars in the Most Holy Eucharist to be given to the faithful as nourishment as the inexhaustible source of divine life, as He commanded, "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day" (Jn. 6:54).

These are the main themes that our reverend clergy will develop in their parishes over the last three years of this century to prepare us for the celebration of the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in a worthy manner. All of us are thereby called, during this time, to be living witnesses to the Gospel of Christ by living virtuous Christian lives, strengthened by our faith in the life of the world to come.

We greet you, then, on this joyous Day of the Nativity of Christ, and as an assurance of God's blessings, we impart to you, beloved in Christ, the apostolic blessing: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you!"

Christ is Born! - Glorify Him!

†Stephen, Metropolitan
 †Walter, Auxiliary Bishop

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Ukraine marks...

(Continued from page 3)

such as Lysenko and Rachmaninoff before it was closed in 1988 after a fire destroyed the interior.

Hours before the concert was to begin, workers were still polishing wooden banisters, waxing the marble floors and vacuuming the deep red seats of the plush concert hall whose motif is a basic white with delicate pale green and pink frescoes.

Referendum anniversary noted

Two days later, on December 1, President Kuchma released a statement on the anniversary of the referendum. He said the key lesson of the last five years is that political stability must be maintained and strengthened, populism must take a back seat to the pressing needs of the country as a whole, and leaders must be held accountable before the people for their performance.

This is "the essential condition for passing from talk of reforms to their consistent implementation," said Mr. Kuchma. "Genuine statehood stands not only for symbols, borders and other attributes, although they are important. Genuine statehood is impossible without a stable, well-developed economy, social well-being and dignified living conditions for citizens."

He said the Cabinet of Ministers must

begin to take responsibility for the economic well-being of the country, a responsibility entrusted them by the Constitution. And, in a bold announcement, he stated that no longer will government officials tainted with scandal be allowed to leave government peacefully. "I will hold everyone accountable, regardless of their rank, official position and past performance," he said.

As bands played and other festivities took place on Independence Square in Kyiv on December 1, Rukh held a gala meeting commemorating the historic referendum at the historic Central Rada Building, today the Teachers' Union Building. Although everyone in Parliament was invited to attend, only members of the democratic right made appearances. The meeting centered on the formation of a national-democratic pre-election coalition in preparation for the 1998 elections.

On December 3, United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali sent President Kuchma greetings on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the referendum, according to Interfax-Ukraine. He said the event "has ushered in a new era in state development for 52 million Ukrainian citizens" and that it reaffirmed their wish "to build an independent, sovereign and democratic state, which pursues a path towards reintegration into the family of free democracies."

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 22

SPRING VALLEY, N.Y.: A St. Nicholas celebration, sponsored by the Ukrainian Heritage Society, will be held at the Ukrainian Hall, 16 Twin Ave., at 1 p.m. For more information call Julie Szozda, (914) 735-9261.

Tuesday, December 31

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America invites the public to its New Year's Eve gala, featuring the music of Odnochasnist, to be held at the institute, 2 E. 79th St., at 9 p.m.-2 a.m. An open bar and hors d'oeuvres are included in the price of admission. Tickets in advance are \$75, members; \$100, non-members; \$125, at the door. To reserve contact (212) 288-8660.

BAYONNE, N.J.: The Ukrainian National Home, 280 Ave. E, is holding a New Year's Eve party, with a champagne toast, hats and noisemakers, and a hot buffet, with music by Vechori v Karpatakh. Tickets: \$30 per person; \$15 per person. Tickets will not be sold at the door. For reservations call (201) 823-1242.

LEHIGHTON, Pa.: The Ukrainian Homestead on Route 209 will hold its annual New Year's Eve bash, featuring a

buffet dinner and continuous music by DJ Lewko Strockyj, starting at 9 p.m. Admission: \$25 per couple; \$15 per person. For table or room reservations call (610) 377-4621.

Wednesday, January 8

EDMONTON: CBC Radio will broadcast a program titled "Within the Copper Mountain," on Myrna Kostash's new documentary on the life, loves and death of the poet Vasyly Stus. The program will be aired on the "Ideas" segment at 9 p.m.

Sunday, January 12

NEW YORK: The Dumka chorus, under the direction of Wasyly Hrechynskyj, will give a concert of Ukrainian Christmas carols at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, 30 E. Seventh St., at 1 p.m. and at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Fifth Avenue and 51st Street, at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 18

SPRING VALLEY, N.Y.: A traditional New Year's Dance (malanka), sponsored by the Ukrainian Heritage Society, will be held at the Ukrainian Hall, 16 Twin Ave., with dinner at 7:30 p.m., followed by dancing to music by Vidlunnia at 9 p.m. Tickets: \$30, dinner and dance; \$15, dance only.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS, a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public, is a service provided free of charge by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. To have an event listed in this column, please send information (type of event, date, time, place, admission, sponsor, etc.) — typed and in the English language — along with the phone number of a person who may be contacted during daytime hours for additional information, to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 30 Montgomery St., Jersey City, NJ 07302.



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